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Macintosh System Software 6.0 Changes (part 1 of 4)

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Introduction

This article is an overview of the most notable changes made to the Macintosh System Software since the 5.0 release. For more detailed information, see parts 2 through 4.

QuickerGraf

Color QuickDraw now incorporates Andy Hertzfeld's QuickerGraf. Previous public domain versions of QuickerGraf were made available in the form of INIT and CDEV files, but in System Software 6.0, it's in the System file. Users should throw away QuickerGraf INIT or CDEV files when upgrading to System Software 6.0.

Pop-Up Menus

Pop-Up menus work on multiple Macintosh II monitors when running under MultiFinder.

Version Information

The Get Info window now has a field for reporting the file's version. For files, such as documents, that have no version information, the value "Not Available" appears.

Disk Copies

When copying an entire floppy disk to another, the Finder now uses an image copy to create an exact duplicate of the original disk.

MultiFinder

Double-clicking on a document, when the application is already open, now activates the application and then opens the document.

Printer Tools

Five printer drivers are included with System Software 6.0:
- ImageWriter

- AppleTalk ImageWriter
- LaserWriter IISC
- LaserWriter IINT
- LaserWriter IINTX

The LaserWriter Drivers now support 11" x 17" paper. A new radio button in the Page Setup dialog box makes this new size available.

There is a new check box in the Page Setup dialog, and another has been modified. The Text Smoothing option smooths bit-map fonts that are downloaded, and the Graphics Smoothing option smooths bit maps other than text. Because of this new feature, this version is incompatible with all previous versions of LaserWriter Prep.

HD SC Setup

HD SC Setup now lets users divide a Hard Disk into multiple partitions. This is particularly useful to A/UX users.

Installer Scripts

Mini-Scripts for the Installer are included. They create a system that is configured only for the type of Macintosh that it was created for. Patches for the other Macintosh types are not installed with Mini-Scripts. Starting up a system configured for one Macintosh type on a different Macintosh type will cause an alert box indicating that the system was intended for a different Macintosh configuration.

CloseView

The new CloseView utility lets users magnify the screen image. This is particularly useful to visually impaired users. Because CloseView is a CDEV, it's accessed via the Control Panel.

Map

The new Map CDEV records and displays the longitude, latitude, and time of locations anywhere in the world.

Macro Maker

The new Macro Maker utility lets users to create macros that automate repetitive tasks. Macro Maker is an INIT that's made available through an icon that appears in the menu bar.

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This article continued in "Macintosh System Software 6.0 Changes (part 2 of 4)".

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